

Mesa Economic Development



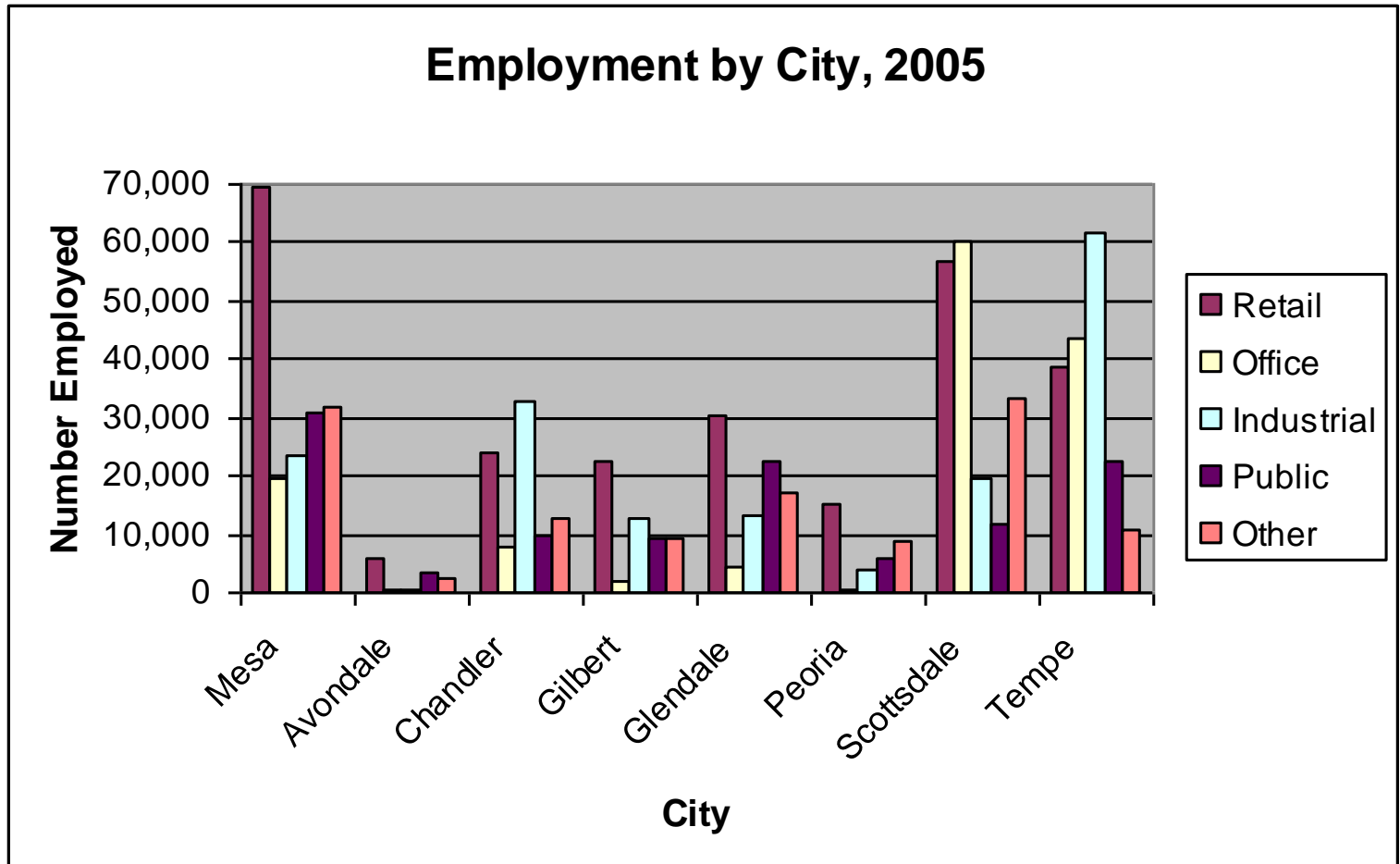
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Economic Development
City of Mesa



Can you guess the theme?



Employment by City





Is The Sky Really Falling?

Companies are in “survival” mode and are adjusting their business models to adapt to today’s economy.

Electronics manufacturer cutting 600 jobs, closing Phoenix plant

The Business Journal of Phoenix - 5:26 PM MST Monday, May 21, 2007
by [Mike Sunnucks](#)
The Business Journal

Chandler workers lose jobs at former Intel division

Max Jarman
The Arizona Republic
Dec. 18, 2007 05:05 PM

Motorola plans 4,000 layoffs, some in Ariz.

Staff and wire reports
May. 31, 2007 12:00 AM

Cellphone-maker Motorola Inc. said Wednesday that it will cut 4,000 more jobs as part of sagging financial and operational results.

of the 400 Chandler employees it took on last year when it

ON Semiconductor moving 110 jobs to Oregon, Europe

The Business Journal of Phoenix - September 21, 2007
by [Mike Sunnucks](#)
The Business Journal



Priority # 1

Retain the businesses currently operating in Mesa and help facilitate their expansion.

“Without your assistance... We would have located in India with an established partner. Essentially you saved 50 near-term jobs with good follow-up and proper handling of the process...

- Adam Pishl, SolFocus

SolFocus™

Innovation Inspired by Nature





Priority # 2

Continue to attract high-quality jobs to Mesa.



“Hawker Beechcraft Services is pleased to announce our Mesa location... We appreciate the partnership and support that has developed between us and the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Arizona Department of Commerce, the City of Mesa, Greater Phoenix Economic Council and the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.”

- Bill Brown, president, Global Customer Service and Support



Priority # 3

Facilitating Economic Development .
Assisting businesses & developers through the City processes.



4 MESA NEWS

THE MESA REPUBLIC • THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007

Bowling balls are out; paintballs are in

Country Club
lanes in Mesa
switch sports

By JJ Hensley

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It's going from bowling to balling.

For more than 40 years, Country Club Bowl served as a recreational mecca for Mesa families.

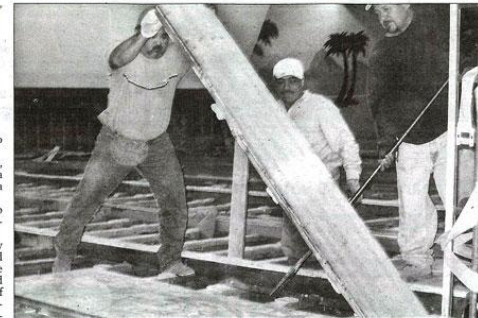
Now an East Valley group wants to recreate that atmosphere with paintball.

Construction crews are busy tearing apart the 45-year-old bowling center, hauling out the lanes, piling up the pins and balls, all in anticipation of bringing the first indoor paintball center to Mesa by the summer.

"With as fast as the East Valley is growing, the paintball world kind of passed them up a bit," said Pete Johnson, who will manage the arena once he's done deconstructing the bowling alley. "We're hoping to fix that."

The plan is to convert the former bowling surface into the indoor arena, with inflatable obstacles scattered throughout the course and a synthetic turf floor.

Country Club Bowl's 32 lanes add up to at least 15,000 square feet of space once the



JJ HENSLEY/THE REPUBLIC

Ernesto Ortiz-Cruz (left), Miguel Eranide-Fabian and Artemo Moreno-Allegria remove a section of bowling lanes from Country Club Bowl in Mesa.

pin-setting equipment is removed. With the floor 18 inches lower after the bowling lanes are taken out, the facility opens up into an expansive, warehouse-size area.

Eventually, the owners want to have a snack-bar and rooms to accommodate birthday parties. But for now, they're concentrating on rehabbing a building that has gone virtually untouched since it was constructed in the early 1960s.

The bowling center's owners made adjustments through the years, but asbestos abatement crews will be in next week to remove the minerals from walls and ceilings, and electricians will come after that to update an electrical system which isn't up to code.

"Our main goal right now is just to get the field open," said Amy Fitch, the arena's general

manager.

The ambitious plan to open an indoor paintball arena in the East Valley isn't without its skeptics.

Longtime paintballers in the area have seen these types of businesses proposed before, said Bryan Bijonowski, who owns The Front Paintball supply stores in Mesa and Gilbert with his wife, Kelley.

Often these businesses never

materialize, he said.

"It seems like every couple of months, somebody is posting (on www.pbaz.com) that they're starting a new field," Bijonowski said.

"They get everyone fired up and lo and behold, a few months later that thing fell through and it's just a big tease kind of thing."

"The only difference though, is that most of the time, when someone has announced it, nobody has come to my store and actually said they're going to open up."

Fitch has done that, he said, but even if the business opens as anticipated this summer, they'll have to work to make inroads in the area's insular paintball community.

"It's a tricky situation," said Bijonowski, who admitted he might lose a little business if the proposed arena has a pro shop, as planned. "You can't just run it like an Amazing Joe's."

"Your normal paintballer guy is a little more aggressive on edge. You go there for fun, but a lot of those guys play to win, too."

The proposed move brings an end to the beleaguered building's saga that began when it closed last June.

A deal to reopen the Country Club Bowl as a bowling center fell through a few months later and the 35,000-square-foot building was listed at more than \$2 million.



Takeaways



- I. Business Retention & Expansion... Let's take care of our own!
- II. Business Attraction efforts:
 - We can't do it alone, we need our partners!
- III. Process Improvements
 - Mesa Economic Development Action Team